In Re Public Meeting NYC - Taxi & Limousine Commission May 3, 2023

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2	NEW YORK CITY					
3	TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION					
4	PUBLIC MEETING					
5	X					
6	33 Beaver Street New York, New York					
7	May 3, 2023					
8	10:02 a.m.					
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11	HELD BEFORE:					
12	DAVID DO, Chair/Commissioner					
13	SHERRYL ELUTO, General Counsel					
14						
15	BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:					
16	6 THOMAS SORRENTINO					
17						
18	JACQUES JIHA					
19	ELISA VELAZQUEZ					
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22	Sabrina Brown Stewart, Court Reporter					
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In Re Public Meeting NYC - Taxi & Limousine Commission May 3, 2023

1	SPEAKERS:
2	FABIAN CANCEL - Director of Base and Business Services
3	DANIEL GODDIN - Assistant General Counsel, TLC
4	DANIEL GODDIN - ASSIStant General Counsel, ilc
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CHAIR DO: Good morning. I'm calling this meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. I am

David Do, Commissioner and Chair of the Taxi

& Limousine Commission. I am joined today by our board of commissioners, Jiha, Velazquez,

Mitchell, and Sorrentino.

I have a brief and happy announcement. I think I saw some of you out there at our Vision Zero ceremony just last week, so thank you so much for participating. That day, we celebrated two people, right; one Base and one person, including Patricia Ramirez, who was our safest driver.

We honored over 500 of all of you who had drove supersafe in the last four years, without a fatality, injury or traffic violations with the TLC or any law enforcement agencies, so congratulations to all of you.

Today, we're voting on a rule package with several components. First, in accordance with Local Law 12 of 2020, we propose consolidating the Critical Driver Program with the Persistent Violator Program, under the heading of the Persistent Violator

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Program. This will ensure that TLC drivers will not be penalized under the program more than once for the same violation or violations.

In accordance with the several New York State insurance law changes, we propose rules that uphold those changes. State law requires a combined single limit of at least 1.5 million for FHVs with a seating capacity of eight or more. And let me be very clear -- and I heard you all, that this does not include the driver, and at least 500,000 for commuter vans with a seating capacity of eight or more.

In response to public comments we received, demonstrating a little confusion, we made the rule proposal a little bit more clear. We propose those time for for-hire vehicle base owners and commuter van bases, to respond to TLC respecters from ten to three business days, but we have changed that to five business days.

We also clarified that a TLC license driver cannot operate a TLC licensed vehicle, if the driver's state-issued chauffeur

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license has been suspended or revoked, or if
the driver's New York State driving
privileges were suspended or revoked. And we
require medallion owners, or their agents, to
pay sublessees drivers monies owed from
credit card payments, including when that
responsibility was delegated to other parties
and those parties failed to pay the drivers.

This is all good news for our driving community, and we're very pleased that we will, as a Commission, be voting for this item. And then, finally, we will also be voting on a resolution authorizing an SHL pilot in the outer boroughs.

All right. And with that, I'm going to turn it over to our General Counsel, Sherryl Eluto, to take us through the agenda.

MS. ELUTO: Good morning.

Commissioners, the first item before you are the minutes for the March 8, 2023, Commission meeting. So, I will call a vote to adopt those minutes.

All in favor of adopting the minutes.

(Hands raised in tandem by

Commissioners.)

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1	MS. ELUTO: And the vote passes
2	unanimously. Thank you.
3	And I will now call the director of
4	Base and Business Services, Fabian Cancel, to
5	present the Base license applications.
6	MR. CANCEL: Good morning,
7	Commissioners and attendees. My name is
8	Fabian Cancel. I'm the director of the TLC
9	Base and Business Licensing Unit.
10	17 bases have been submitted for
11	renewal review, and we're awaiting your
12	approval.
13	MS. ELUTO: Commissioners, we have a
14	vote on adopting Base license
15	recommendations.
16	All those in favor.
17	(Hands raised in tandem by
18	Commissioners.)
19	MS. ELUTO: And the Base license list
20	passes unanimously.
21	MR. CANCEL: Thank you.
22	MS. ELUTO: Commissioners, we will now
23	turn to item 5 on the agenda, the rule
24	proposal package.
25	The proposed rules were published in

the City Record on March 6, 2023, for public 1 2 comment. We held a public hearing on 3 April 19th, and then on April 28th, the final version of the proposed rule was posted on 4 our website and circulated to the 5 Commissioners, along with the hearing 6 7 transcript and all written comments that were received. 8 9 Commissioners, may we move for a vote? All those in favor of adopting the rule 10 11 packages amended. 12 CHAIR DO: Aye. (Hands raised in tandem by 13 Commissioners.) 14 MS. ELUTO: And the rule passes 15 16 unanimously. 17 CHAIR DO: Great. Well, now, we're 18 going to go on to the SHL pilot vote. 19 As you all remember, in February, we 2.0 had a street hail livery public hearing, to hear from our community, to tell us what is 21 22 going on with our green industry and how can 23 we fix it, especially for outer borough 24 residents into impact, you know, outer 25 borough service, but also service for those

1	who need Access-A-Ride or medical
2	transportation.
3	This is something that we worked for
4	over the better part of one year, since I
5	started. And we're calling this pilot the
6	"SHL Pilot." This is and I first want to
7	thank, you know, both Sherryl Eluto and her
8	team, including Dan Goddin, for their energy
9	and their work on this.
10	So, without further ado
11	ADVOCATORS: Shame.
12	CHAIR DO: can I call
13	ADVOCATORS: Shame, TLC.
14	CHAIR DO: Dan on?
15	Can we have order, please. Please, can
16	we have order.
17	ADVOCATORS: Say no.
18	CHAIR DO: Can we have order. Order,
19	please. Order, please.
20	ADVOCATORS: Say no.
21	CHAIR DO: Order, please.
22	All right. Dan, you can come and give
23	your presentation, please.
24	Thank you.
25	MR. GODDIN: Good morning. My name is

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Dan Goddin, and I'm an assistant general counsel for TLC's Office of Legal Affairs.

I'll be walking us through our plans to revitalize the street hail livery sector, by reissuing SHL permits that were previously issued by the TLC in the past, but were then returned back to us.

So, in revitalizing the SHL sector, we hope to address certain agency goals. First, we want to tackle a lack of licensed vehicles available to the non-high-volume for-hire service entities, that are competing out there.

And Secondly, we want these newly available vehicles to place an emphasis on trips that began outside of the pre-arranged exclusionary zone in Manhattan. Meaning, we want these vehicles to begin their trips north of East 96th Street or north of West 110th Street in Manhattan, or any of the outer boroughs.

This emphasis on outer borough service is in keeping with the original hail act, that established the street hail livery sector back in 2012, and is also in keeping

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with New York City Council Local Law 147 of 2018, that established the FHV license clause, while also mandating that TLC "Increase the availability of for-hire services in different geographic areas in the City, where such services are needed."

And finally, this pilot is designed to ensure that there are vehicles available for nonemergency medical transportation, regardless of where that specific type of trip begins. SHLs have been available to work with the MTA's Access-A-Ride program in years passed, and these pilot vehicles can continue to perform those Access-A-Ride trips.

But these pilot participant drivers
will also be able to accept broker trips that
are performed outside of the Access-A-Ride
program, ensuring more options for New
Yorkers, that are just trying to get to their
healthcare appointments.

So, those are the main objectives that we're going for. And today, I'm going to try to move briskly through what we think is a straightforward plan that we can effectuate

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pretty quickly, to get all of us there together in the not too distant future.

While I do want to move quickly, please do interrupt me at any time, if you do want me to expand on anything throughout this topic, and I'll do just that. I'll get started with a little road map.

I'm going to give an overview of the pilot resolution. I'm going to briefly describe what the pilot participants might look like. I'm going to dive a bit deeper on the objectives of the pilot program and a bit deeper on why we think the program would be attractive to a pilot participant. And then, I'll wrap up, and explicitly repeat the offer to field any questions at the end, once you've heard what we are thinking about here.

Okay. So, as to the substantive background of pilot resolution, we are proposing a program in which we test whether or not SHLs can be used safely and efficiently without being equipped or permitted to accept street hails; that is the main regulatory change, creating a different version of the SHL, that could only pick up

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pre-arranged rides. As to the timing of this program, if it is approved today, we hope to begin accepting applications from pilot participants on May 16th, in less than two weeks.

In removing the ability to accept hails, we are also going to be removing the need for a lot of equipment and the expenses for same. For example, a participant will no longer need a meter, will no longer need a roof light. Pilot participants will not be paying for that equipment during this program. Pilot participants will be able to keep the vehicle color of their choice. And broadly speaking, the TLC's regulatory structure is going to result in a very modest visual footprint on these vehicles during the pilot.

The partition and in-vehicle camera system will be options. They will not be requirements for the pilot participants. And the TLC is also going to be providing the markings needed for this program. So, the idea is that there's no need for a participant to go to a meter shop or to a

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print shop to complete any part of the inspection process. We want to completely remove any possibility of unforeseen costs and expenses from outside entities throughout.

This was the main feedback we received from our licensees at the February 8th public hearing, in which we solicited ideas as to how to adapt to the SHL sector. We hope that this regulatory shift represents a thoughtful attempt to incorporate that feedback, to take the advice of our licensees.

That summarizes the approach to outside entities, which then brings us to cost imposed by TLC itself. We intend to be very aggressive here as well, by waiving the fee to obtain an SHL permit to participate in this pilot. We do hope this gets people's attention. We want people excited for this, but we're also going to be very clear about certain qualifications.

For example, the FHV license issued during this pilot will only be able to be affixed to an SHL vehicle, and that is both during the pilot and after the pilot as well.

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Only one essential permit, one FHV license per pilot participant. And the last main qualification is that you have to affix the permit and the license to either a wheelchair accessible vehicle, an electric vehicle, or a hybrid vehicle.

7 Okay. So, those pilot parameters that we just discussed are really the main points 8 9 that I wanted to hit with you today. 10 while I've got you, and even more brisker than before, I do want you to be aware that 11 12 we, at TLC, are going to be doing outreach within the licensing community, to try to 13 14 bring participants into the pilot on a measured basis. 15 16 Those participants do need to be in 17 good standing with us, and those participants will need to have a TLC driver's license. 18 19 And, of course, they will need to have a WAV, 2.0 an EV or a hybrid, or they're not going to 21 pass their inspection and they're not going 22 to receive the permit and the license. But 23 we do look forward to seeing those 24 participants at Woodside for their 25 inspection. We do look forward to those

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participants hopefully passing that inspection and being given the markings and license that they need. And then, we are very excited about those participants being ready to accept pre-arranged trips, just as soon as they drive off the lot at Woodside.

We are trying to create a streamlined, fast, efficient process for interested parties, which requires as little expense as possible. And also, no unpredictability from outside parties, no five-year contracts, no installation fees, no painting your personal car a different color, that wouldn't necessarily be a preferred color choice when driving around off duty. We hope these agency efforts generate a response within the TLC driving community.

With that, I'm going to start winding things down with some pilot goals, most of which you certainly figured out long ago.

First, of course, we want everyone to be safe, and we want everyone to abide by the restrictions and starting trips within the pre-arranged exclusionary zone in Manhattan.

And we want not just to see an absence of

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unfortunate things. We're hoping to see plenty of positives, positive answers to questions like -- is there sufficient demand for pre-arranged trips that originate outside of the pre-arranged exclusion zone, that would provide full-time work for drivers? Do Access-A-Ride trips, do Medicaid reimburse trips that originate within the exclusionary zone, generate substantial income for pilot participants? We, at TLC, are all determined to gain insight, gain data, that could help us answer these questions.

I'm just going to briefly go over what might happen further down the road, which is that we might make this program permanent to the rule-making after the pilot is completed. I wasn't planning to spend too, too much time on those post-pilot possibilities, just because it's so far away, and because we have so much work to do before then.

But I do want to flag that we will be keeping an eye on the data as it comes in, continuing our dialogue with licensees, industry stakeholders, that has been so invaluable throughout this process. And we

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will be thinking about how to conclude this effort in a way that benefits our licensees and the riding public in the most comprehensive way that we can.

And this is the last slide. And this slide was designed for a specific audience.

Namely, if you are a licensee with questions, we want to help. Please feel free to e-mail us at tlcpilots@tlc.nyc.gov, and we'll try to help as best we can. In addition to that e-mail address, I should also highlight that there will be an update to TLC's website on Monday, May 8th, and that will include more detailed information about the application process for any interested parties. But I will briefly sketch out a few steps now.

First, any interested licensee will need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which is just an agreement between TLC and the applicant in which, for example, we agreed that you can't accept street hails during this pilot. Once that agreement is signed, the applicant will have 30 days to provide their vehicle identification number to our licensing division.

1	At that point, licensing will ask for
2	payment for the FHV license and will
3	hopefully be providing approval of your
4	application and providing you with that FHV
5	license. And after that, they will schedule
6	you for your inspection at TLC's Safety and
7	Emissions Division.
8	And with that, I will wrap it up.
9	Though, I will be very happy to hear any
10	questions you have on anything we just
11	discussed.
12	And if not, I'm happy to concede the
13	floor back to you, Commissioner Do.
14	CHAIR DO: Thank you.
15	Commissioners, are there any questions?
16	COMMISSIONER VELAZQUEZ: No.
17	SPEAKER: Please, no vote today. We
18	need more extension. We need more time to
19	testify and testimony. Listen, my bother and
20	nine driver (sic) committed suicide, and
21	MS. ELUTO: Excuse me. Commissioners,
22	we will
23	CHAIR DO: Can we please
24	MS. ELUTO: now vote.
25	CHAIR DO: have order. Thank you.

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             I'll talk to you right after this.
                   MS. ELUTO: We will now vote on the
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             resolution.
 4
                   MS. DESAI:
                               Stop the vote.
 5
                   MS. ELUTO:
                                Outlining the parameters of
             the street hail livery pilot, the resolution
 6
 7
             was posted on the TLC website, distributed to
             the Commissioners on April 28th.
 8
 9
                   MS. DESAI:
                               Stop the vote.
                   MS. ELUTO: All those in favor of
10
11
             adopting the resolution, please raise your
12
             hand.
                   MS. DESAI:
13
                                Stop the vote.
14
                  (Hands raised in tandem by
15
             Commissioners.)
                   MS. ELUTO: And the vote is unanimous.
16
17
                   Thank you.
18
                   ADVOCATORS:
                                 Stop the vote.
19
                   CHAIR DO: Thank you so much.
                                                    Ι
20
             appreciate everyone for coming out and
21
             sharing their thoughts and voices.
                                                   I'll be
22
             down to talk to you all in one second.
23
                   The time is now 10:18, and I will
24
             adjourn this meeting.
25
                   Thank you, everyone.
                  (TIME NOTED: 10:18 a.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF NEW YORK)
4	:SS
5	COUNTY OF QUEENS)
6	
7	I, Sabrina Brown Stewart, a shorthand
8	reporter within and for the State of New York, do
9	hereby certify that the within is a true and
10	accurate transcript of the statement taken on May 3,
11	2023.
12	I further certify that I am not related to
13	any of the parties to this action by blood or by
14	marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the
15	outcome of this matter.
16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
17	hand this 10th day of May, 2023.
18	
19	
20	Sabrina Brown-Stewart
	Sabrina Brown Stewart
21	
22	
23	
24	
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